

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: "ATLANTIC NEWS" ARTICLE ON SPEECH BY SECRETARY
GENERAL, MR. LUNS

1. TRANSMITTED HERewith IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE UNDER THE DEADLINE "A EUROPEAN DEFENCE SYSTEM IS A DISTANT PROSPECT ACCORDING TO MR. LUNS" WHICH APPEARS IN THE ATLANTIC NEWS ON 23 JULY. WE BELIEVE IT WILL INTEREST BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD. BEGIN TEXT:
2. IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, EUROPE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE ITS OWN SECURITY AND THIS CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES. SUCH WAS THE CONCLUSION OF THE MOST RECENT SPEECH MADE THE NATO SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. LUNS, AT THE NATO DEFENCE COLLEGE IN ROME ON 18 JULY. MR. LUNS ALSO DESCRIBED NATO AS A "NERVE CENTRE" OF THE NON-COMMUNIST WORLD.

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3. AFTER WELCOMING THE PROGRESS ALREADY MADE BY THE COUNTRIES OF EUROPE TOWARDS GREATER EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, WHILST NEVERTHELESS REVEALING HIS DISAPPOINTMENT AS REGARDS THE SLOW RATE OF INTEGRATION, MR. LUNS WARNED EUROPE AGAINST HARBOURING TOO MANY ILLUSSIONS CONCERNING THE SETTING UP OF A PURELY EUROPEAN DEFENCE SYSTEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. "WHATEVER THE RATE OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION",

HE STATED, "EUROPE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GUARANTEE ITS OWN SECURITY IS THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE SETTING UP OF A EUROPEAN DEFENCE SYSTEM IN THE CONTEXT OF A FOREIGN POLICY AND A EUROPEAN SECURITY POLICY CALLS FOR SUCH A DEGREE OF JOINT DETERMINATION AND SUCH CONSIDERABLE EXPENDITURE THAT IT CAN ONLY BE THOUGHT OF IN TERMS OF THE FINAL PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION. IT SHOULD ALSO BE BORNE IN MIND - ALWAYS SUPPOSING THAT THIS NOBLE IDEAL WERE ONE DAY ACHIEVED - THAT IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY AND, ABOVE ALL, DANGEROUS TO SEE IN THIS A SURE GUARANTEE FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE".

4. MR. LUNS THEN TRIED TO EXPLAIN WHY THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WHOSE POPULATION IS GREATER THAN THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION AND WHOSE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT BY FAR EXCEEDS THAT OF THE USSR, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR ITS OWN SECURITY. "LET US BE REALISTIC", MR. LUNS POINTED OUT, "THE SECURITY OF EUROPE RESTS MAINLY ON THE DETERRENCE GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED STATES' STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POWER". MOREOVER, HE CONTINUED, "EVEN SUPPOSING THAT FOR A MOMENT ONE COULD FORGET THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH WOULD BE AGAINST THE UNIFICATION OF THE BRITISH AND FRENCH NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES UNDER ONE SINGLE COMMAND, SUCH A UNIFIED EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE COULD BE TOTALLY INSUFFICIENT AS A MEANS OF DISUASION AGAINST THE CRUSHING NUCLEAR STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION."
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5. THIS IS WHY, IN THE OPINION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THE SECURITY OF EUROPE CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED IN THE WIDER FRAMEWORK OF THE ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT IT "WILL STAY THAT WAY FOR AS LONG AS CAN BE FORESEEN." THE CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT HOWEVER "PUSH US TO RELY ON THE AMERICANS FOR THE MAJOR PART OF OUR SECURITY", HE SAID, ADDING THAT "IT IS NOT, IN ANY CASE, CERTAIN THAT THE LATTER WOULD WISH TO TAKE ON SUCH A ONEROUS TASK". GIVEN THE ECONOMIC POWER OF EUROPE, EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON SECURITY EFFORTS SHOULD BE "FULLY MAINTAINED" AND PERHAPS EVEN "INCREASED" ACCORDING TO MR. LUNS.

6. MR. LUNS FINALLY SUMMED UP THE MAIN QUESTIONS AND FACTS WHICH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO: "THE EXPANSION AND WORSENING OF THE MILITARY THREAT, THE NEW GEO-POLITICAL ADVENTURISM ON THE PART OF THE SOVIET UNION, OUR (THE EUROPEANS') LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR WEIGHING DOWN OUR BUDGETS WITH THE EXPENDITURE REQUIRED FOR OUR SECURITY, THE SLOW RATE OF PROGRESS IN THE PROCESS OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION AND FACTORS WHICH WAR CAUSING

OBSTACLES IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN CERTAIN OF OUR
COUNTRIES". END TEXT. PEREZ

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